

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 16-18 and 27 are cancelled from the application; claims 10 and 26 are amended; and claims 10-15, 19-26 and 28-37 are pending in the application.

The pending claims stand rejected as being anticipated by Lin (claims 10-16 and 19-25), anticipated by Bardus (claims 26-37), or as being obvious over Bardus (claims 22, 23, 29 and 35). Applicant has amended independent claims 10 and 26, from which the other claims depend, and believes that such amendments place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicant's amendments to claims 10 and 26 add a recitation that the target materials and backing plate materials recited therein consist of aluminum. The amended claims thus recite processes in which target materials and backing plate materials consisting of aluminum are diffusion bonded together to form constructions having the recited properties, including, the recited property of a predominate portion of developed grains in the target material being less than 100 microns in maximum dimension after recited thermal treatment associated with the diffusion bonding.

Neither of the Examiner's cited references suggests or discloses a process wherein a backing plate material consisting of aluminum is diffusion bonded to a target material consisting of aluminum. Accordingly, it is inconceivable that the references could suggest or disclose the recited processes of claims 10 and 26 wherein backing plate and target materials consisting of aluminum are thermally treated under conditions which diffusion bond the backing plate and target materials to one another and under which a predominate portion of developed grains in the target material having a maximum dimension of less than 100 microns. For at least this reason, claims 10 and 26 are allowable over the cited

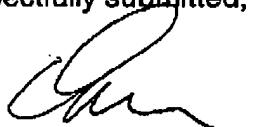
references, either alone, or in combination. Applicant therefore requests formal allowance of claims 10 and 26 in the Examiner's next action.

Since the remaining claims 11-15, 19-25 and 28-37 depend from claims 10 and 26, such remaining claims are also allowable over the cited references.

All of the pending claims are believed allowable for the reasons discussed above, and Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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